

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PORT O 03316 171727Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 123
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIOB

S E C R E T PORT OF SPAIN 3316

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TD, US
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION M.P. ALLEGES TRINIDAD POLICE
INVOLVED WITH CIA - POLICE HIERARCHY IN
SHAKE-UP

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. AN OPPOSITION MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT CHARGED ON
DECEMBER 16 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND 49 OTHER TRINIDAD POLICEMEN
WERE AGENTS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.
THE DEMOCRATIC ACTION CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE FOR
TOBAGO WEST, DR. WINSTON MURRAY, BASED HIS ALLEGATION
ON A REPORT WHICH HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED AND ON
THE FACT THAT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DENNIS RAMDWAR
WENT TO THE UNITED STATES SOON AFTER HE HAD
TESTIFIED AT THE CUBANA AIRLINE CRASH TRIAL IN
VENEZUELA.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 PORT O 03316 171727Z

2. DR. MURRAY ALSO CHARGED THAT RAMDWAR'S CIA
CONNECTION WAS THE REASON THAT REASON THAT RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN REMOVED
FROM MR. RAMDWAR AND THAT THE ASSISTANT COMMIS-
SIONER FOR CRIME WAS ORDERED TO REPORT DIRECTLY
TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE. REPORTS OF

MURRAY'S CHARGES WERE CARRIED IN BOTH DAILY
NEWSPAPERS ON DECEMBER 17.

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3. COMMENT: DR. MURRAY IS A MEMBER OF THE RADICAL
FRINGE OF HIS OWN PARTY AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE WITH
SEVERAL EXTREME-LEFT ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THE
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PEACE COUNCIL, OF WHICH HE IS
VICE CHAIRMAN. HE HAS MADE SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS
ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES IN TRINIDAD IN OTHER FORA
PREVIOUSLY WITHOUT MUCH EFFECT.

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4. BEHIND THESE PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS, SOMETHING IS
ACTUALLY AFOOT IN THE TOP POLICE HIERARCHY.
RAMDWAR, THE SECOND-RANKING NATIONAL POLICE OFFICIAL,
HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN THE EMBASSY'S PRINCIPAL CHANNEL
FOR CONDUCT OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS ON MATTERS RANGING
FROM NARCOTICS SMUGGLING TO TERRORISM. EARLY THIS
MONTH WHILE RAMDWAR WAS IN NEW YORK ON A CHRISTMAS
SHOPPING TRIP, HE WAS PUBLICLY REMOVED FROM THE CHAIN
OF COMMAND CONCERNING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. SINCE
HIS RETURN HE HAS NERVOUSLY AVOIDED ANY CONTACT WITH
U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND OUR RECENT DIALOGUE ON THE
POTENTIAL ARRIVAL IN THIS AREA OF A SHIP CARRYING LARGE
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PAGE 03 PORT O 03316 171727Z

QUANTITIES OF ILLEGAL MARIJUANA WAS CARRIED OUT THROUGH
THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HIMSELF.

5. WE ARE CAREFULLY TRYING TO DETERMINE WHAT IS GOING
ON WITHIN THE POLICE AND SUSPECT IT IS MERELY INTERNECINE
JOCKEYING. HOWEVER, THE ALLEGATION THAT RAMDWAR IS SOME-
HOW INVOLVED WITH THE CIA IS DEFINITELY BEING USED AGAINST
HIM AND WE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT USG MAY BE DRAGGED
BY IMPLICATION FURTHER INTO WHATEVER INTERNAL IMBROGLIO
IS BREWING IN THE POLICE FORCE. WE WILL ALSO WATCH
CAREFULLY WHETHER THE US EPISODE DEVELOPS INTO A SITUATION
WHICH COULD IMPAIR THE HITERTO FORTHRIGHT WORKING
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND TRINIDADIAN
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, OR IMPAIR THE OVERALL
EFFECTIVENESS AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THE NATIONAL
POLICE FORCE.

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